

Eric Horner, Brandon Pugh, Brian Shewmaker, and Matt Whitney. Three members of the CMSU team made the NCAA-Division II All-Tournament Team: Zach Norman, Danny Guidry, and Danny Powers.

Mr. Speaker, this outstanding team has played a wonderful season of baseball and has made the people of Missouri proud. I know that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating them on their NCAA-Division II Baseball Championship.

CALLING ON JAPAN TO APOLOGIZE TO WOMEN FORCED INTO SEXUAL SLAVERY DURING AND PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a resolution calling on Japan to issue an apology to the women and girls forced into sexual slavery during and prior to World War II.

During the war and the colonial occupation of South East Asia, Japan forced over 200,000 young women and girls, known euphemistically as "comfort women" by the Japanese, into military brothels. This sexual enslavement of mostly Korean and Chinese women was officially commissioned and orchestrated by the Government of Japan. Women throughout Southeast Asia were recruited by force, coercion, or deception, transported across national borders, and kept at the mercy of the Japanese military in subhuman conditions. They endured such horrific crimes as gang rape, forced abortions, sexual violence, and human trafficking.

However, the horror of this experience did not end with the cessation of hostilities. Many comfort women were killed by Japanese soldiers after Japan surrendered. In addition, some of these women had no family or homes to return to, and found themselves abandoned in hostile lands where they were viewed as collaborators. The few remaining survivors live daily with the painful memories of their enslavement, and many still suffer serious health effects as a result of violent physical and sexual abuse and sexually transmitted diseases contracted during their ordeal.

While the facts of these crimes are incontrovertible, Japan has not officially acknowledged guilt or assisted the victims. Japan has paid \$1.3 billion in war reparations, yet none of it has gone to the victims of sexual enslavement and not one person has been tried for their crimes. Japan waited over 44 years to even acknowledge the use of comfort women and then only issued a very ambiguous apology. Japanese textbooks rarely mention this enslavement and extreme nationalists still deny Japan's involvement. A private fund set up to compensate comfort women is, according to the United Nations Special Rapporteur's reports, a complete denial of legal responsibility.

There are only a handful of these victims still alive. For too long, these women have had to live in silence and shame. My resolution calls for Japan to issue a clear and unambiguous apology, render state compensation to the victims, and provide historical accountability for these horrific crimes. The sexual en-

slavement of hundreds of thousands of women should not disappear into history without a full apology and compensation.

RECOGNITION OF MR. YASHVANT PATEL AND MATRI, INC.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. Yashvant Patel, and the organization he created, Matri, Inc. Mr. Patel and Matri, Inc. have created a unique and important forum where Gujarati youth can uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner using more modern methods. This forum has been the starting ground for many happy couples, and has provided a much-needed service to America's young Gujarati people.

Mr. Patel founded Matri, Inc. in 1995 with a specific vision of a forum where Gujarati youths could uphold their traditional values while searching for a life partner. The first Matri was hosted by Anand Pragati Mandal in Kearny, NJ, and it had less than 100 attendees. In the last nine years the event has grown drastically and become a professional non-profit organization, providing annual conventions with over 300 participants.

Matri serves an important role in the unique Gujarati youth culture. Although it is a matrimonial forum, it does not force ideas of marriage but instead encourages networking and meeting with people who share similar ideas and principles, who may become lifelong friends or even marriage partners in the future. It is their belief that similarities in dharma, poshaak and khorak (religion, dress and food) are necessary to create a successful marriage. Matri allows Gujarati parents to fulfill their duty to pave the way for their children and give them a prosperous and happy life by honoring Gujarati traditions.

Matri is actually the Sanskrit term for friendship, which is a key element in any successful marriage. Since the participants are allowed to meet without the pressure of parents, the event gives them the opportunity to meet other people and develop relationships. Matri estimates that approximately 15 percent of all participants meet with success each year.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Patel and his organization for the fine and important work they have done over the past eight years. His organization is doing an enormously important service to an important group of our nation's citizens, and we thank him for it.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF CDC OFFICIAL FRANCIE DE PESYTER

HON. W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and great appreciation that I rise today to commemorate the retirement of someone who has been a treasure to the United States Congress for the last 28 years.

Ms. Francie de Peyster will be retiring from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on June 30, 2003, after many years of distinguished leadership and of tireless dedication to improving our Nation's public health.

Ms. de Peyster's prestigious career in public service began right here in the House of Representatives for what is now my committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee. She worked for more than five years for Representative Tim Lee Carter on the staff of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Following her tenure in the House, Ms. de Peyster went to work for the CDC in its Washington office in 1980. Ms. de Peyster became Deputy Director of the CDC/Washington office in 1984. In June 2001, she received the Secretary of Health and Human Services' Award for Distinguished Service. And just last year, she worked closely with my Committee as we drafted and passed into law one of the most important public health and national security initiatives in recent history—the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.

Ms. de Peyster's professionalism, civility, experience, and dedication will be greatly missed by her friends and colleagues in the Senate and the House, and we will remain eternally grateful for her outstanding contributions to this Nation. I know all my colleagues would want to join me in expressing our sincerest thanks and wishes of happiness to Francie as she enters retirement.

HONORING FUTURE FOOTBALL GREAT RYAN HOAG

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, for the past 28 years, the Orange County community has given out its "Irrelevant Week" award to the last player selected in the National Football League draft—an award premised on the "simple act of doing something nice for someone for no reason."

This year's award, Irrelevant Week XXVIII, honors Ryan Hoag, a wide receiver from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MI, who was selected 262nd in the NFL draft by the Oakland Raiders. Ryan, who checks in at 6 feet 2 inches tall and 200 pounds, caught 56 passes in the 2002 season, racking up 808 yards and 10 touchdowns. This rock-solid performance earned Ryan his second straight first-team selection to the all-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference team—and apparently also caught the eye of scouts for the Oakland Raiders, who hope that he can make a significant contribution to their team's future success. In addition to his football skills, Ryan is clearly a tremendous all-around athlete: he was a soccer and tennis star in high school, and he also competes on his college track team, where he recently placed third in the NCAA Division III national championships for the 100-meter race, with a cheetah-fast 10.51-second dash. And when his football playing days are over, Ryan says that he hopes to follow his true passion, teaching, by becoming a kindergarten teacher.

While Ryan will surely have a lot of hard work ahead of him if he is to earn his way